

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 MCE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 AGRE-00 COME-00 EB-08
TRSE-00 /092 W
-----098935 050234Z /63
R 040938Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2589

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS, TH, US
SUBJECT: RTG REQUEST FOR C123 AIRCRAFT

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT DEPARTMENT RECENTLY REQUESTED DOD TO PLACE A HOLD ON A C-123 AIRCRAFT PRESENTLY IN STORAGE AT DAVIS-MONTHAN AFB ARIZONA IN ORDER TO PERMIT SALE OF THE AIRCRAFT TO ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT FOR USE IN AN AGRICULTURE PROGRAM. WE HAD NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF REQUEST AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY DETAILS ON RTG REQUEST.

2. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THE AIRCRAFT IN QUESTION IS THE SAME ONE PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED BY USAF AS BEING AVAILABLE FOR FMS SALE TO THE ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE FOR USE IN A MODIFICATION PROJECT DEVELOPED BY THE MANCRO CORPORATION, PARAMOUNT, CALIFORNIA. THIS MODIFICATION WOULD EQUIP THE AGINVC-123 B WITH MODERN TURBO-PROP ENGINES, IMPROVE THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM, MODIFY THE AIRCRAFT STRUCTURE, AND PROVIDE THE RTAF WITH A USABLE AIRLIFT SYSTEM THROUGH THE 1990'S. THE PROGRAM ENVISIONS A TOTAL OF 16 TO 20 AIRCRAFT NOW IN THE THAI INVENTORY BEING MODIFIED, SHOULD THE PROTOTYPE PROVE SUCCESSFUL AND REPRESENTS A POTENTIAL SALE OF SOME DOLS 20 MILLION. WE EXPECT OTHER COUNTRIES

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WILL BE INTERESTED IN THE PROGRAM IF IT IS SUCCESSFUL HERE. OBVIOUSLY, IF THE RTAF IS UNABLE TO PROCURE THE AIRCRAFT FOR THE PROTOTYPE MODIFICATION, THE WHOLE PROGRAM WILL BE PLACED IN JEOPARDY.

3. WHILE WE ARE NOT CERTAIN OF THE USE THE AGRICULTURE AUTHORITIES HAVE IN MIND FOR THIS C-123 WE KNOW INFORMALLY

OF INTEREST ON PART OF SOME MEMBERS OF ROYAL FAMILY IN
PROCURING A C-123 AIRCRAFT IN CONNECTION WITH RAINMAKING
ACTIVITIES OF M.R. TEPARIT DEVAKUN. WE HAVE SERIOUS
DOUBTS ABOUT ADVISABILITY OF GETTING CAUGHT UP IN RAIN-
MAKING PROJECT, AND WE WOULD NOT WANT TO DEPRIVE RTAF OF
OPPORTUNITY TO PROCURE C-123 FOR PROTOTYPE MODIFICATION.
WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE ON
THIS MATTER.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALES, MILITARY AIRCRAFT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: MASS, TH, US
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